On Thursday, March 3, Drs. Connie and Roy Gane spoke regarding where God is when bad things happen to good people. Dr. Connie said that she recalls growing up in Nepal where her parents were serving as missionary doctors. She remembers babies lining the hallway of the hospital dying of cholera faster than physicians could treat them. In fact, the disease struck her brother who was just 13 years old and in just a matter of a few hours, it was literally a matter of life and death. Fortunately, he was treated and his life was spared even though there were many who were perishing all around. The entire first chapter of Psalms is dedicated to how important it is for man to live a life in harmony with the law of God. There is contrasted the way of the wicked and how they will not be able to stand in the judgement. Yet, bad things do happen to good people.

Sometimes this is true because of our own stupidity. At other times we may not yet be ready to receive His blessing. When we pour root beer into the gas tank of an automobile or even put too much food in our bodies at one time, that indicates that we are not making wise choices or decisions and the Lord cannot bless us. We think of the time recorded in Numbers 12 when Aaron and his sister Miriam spoke against their brother Moses because he had chosen to marry a Cushite woman. The Lord came down and spoke to the three of them and then left Miriam leprous because of her rash statements. Then Moses paled with the Lord and asked Him to heal Miriam. Because of her actions, the entire camp had to wait for seven days while Miriam was outside of the camp in the wilderness during the purification process. Because God has given us free choice, the choices we make do affect the results. God will stand between us and the devil as we make wise decisions.

On Friday Dr. Connie presented a power point on the life of Queen Esther. Esther was an orphan and her older cousin Mordecai took on the responsibility of raising her. She went on to give a little background of the book of Esther in the Bible. It is a secular book where the name of God is not even mentioned. The book assumes that the reader is aware of the exile of the Jews from the country of Israel and its capital Jerusalem to Susa. Under the rule of Xerxes there were 127 provinces that stretched all of the way from India to Cush. The story unfolds with Xerxes, the King of Persia, in his early 30’s. Hadassah meaning “myrtle,” was the Hebrew name of Esther, which came from being an orphan to a queen and how one nationality went from dammed to redeemed.

The homily was given by Pastor Micheal Goetz, who told the story of a girl who had just received her driver’s licence and was on her way to the hair salon to have her hair done. She was enjoying the freedom that comes with the independence of driving alone for the first time when she noticed a red and blue light approaching from the rear. Soon she pulled to a stop and the officer came to her window and asked for her driver’s licence. She complied and all of the time she admonished the officer that she was in a hurry. She said that she was on her way to the hair salon so that she could have dinner with her boyfriend and his parents that evening. She stated that there was no one out on the road so it was perfectly safe. It was not raining or snowing and she really did not understand why he had to detain her at this particular time. She made a good case and told the officer after he handed her the ticket that he had not seen the last of her yet. The officer replied, “No, I guess that you are right. I will see you at dinner tonight.”

The challenge the pastor gave was to serve not just the poor, but also the rich, the famous and the educated. Nowhere does Jesus say to restrict your service just to the poor. We are here to serve all. May God help us as we develop our character in scholarship, leadership, and service. The seven inductees were Rachel Brantley, April Habenicht, Rufeng Ji, Gielle Kuhn, Seong Min Lee, Zachary Reichert, and Yuna Seo.

During the first semester nearly 30% of the students managed their attendance points without a single unexcused tardy or unexcused absence. The following students were the ones who possessed that distinguishing characteristic: Nicole Anzures, Christiana Atkins, Lauren Bacchiocchi, Seongkyeong Baek, Alexandra Barnum, Levi Barnum, Andrea Barton, Hannah Baxter, Sarah Baxter, Austin Bell, Lauren Bitterman, Lyndon Bradfield, Rachel Brantley, Chelcie Coleman, Melody Collins, Jessica Condon, Christina Cribari, Victoria Curtis, Katie DeWind, Jeffrey Emile, Andrew Gibbs,
Josh Billings gave our devotional. Then they visited mini-classes. Jubilate Fanfare every day, we began with worship. The Silhouettes sang morning worship. After the morning announcements each playing in the commons before entering the chapel for vast expanse out there that we know little about. Using power point he shared with us the enormity of our universe. There are scientists who believe our Universe part of the Milky Way Galaxy which is a part of our universe. The earth is a part of our solar system which is a part of the universe. The earth is a part of our solar system which is a part of ours. God is so immense and so great and yet He still cares for each one of us. Through a variety of scriptural texts, Dr. Kingman helped us to understand our importance to God even though he controls a vast expanse out there that we know little about.

On Tuesday, we were engaged in Academy Day, an introduction to the academy for potential students. After registering, they were welcomed by the Concert Band playing in the commons before entering the chapel for morning worship. After the morning announcements each school in attendance was welcomed. Then, as is the case every day, we began with worship. The Silhouettes sang Jubilate Fanfare and Shout for Joy and Pastor Glassford gave our devotional. Then they visited mini-classes.

“Reason often makes mistakes, but conscience never does” – Josh Billings

The annual Student Association election campaign takes place during the week following the spring break. Students will campaign for an office by placing posters in the commons during that week. There will be about 5 days of campaigning with posters which will begin on Monday and conclude on Friday.

This year that week doubles as a Courtesy Week since we have the annual SA Banquet on Sunday, the 27th of March. Students will have days set aside with emphasis for various groups. It is always a very special week when flowers are sold during the lunch hour and given to someone special. The week will end with a vote on who will serve as the courtesy King and Queen.

The banquet is to take place on Sunday, March 27, at 6:00 pm. To prepare for the occasion, students are engaged in making and setting up on Friday, the 25th. Saturday night the 26th and finishing up on Sunday the 27th. If your son or daughter would like to be involved in the preparation for this event, please come at those times and an officer will find things that can be done in making a difference for the special occasion.

Immediately on return from vacation, we will enter into a very special program–Writing Across the Curriculum. This is a major expense funded by the Leaders on Leadership program which sponsors programs that will give special value to the education of our students. Since writing is perhaps one of the most important skills, two days, Monday and Tuesday, March 21-22, have been set aside for students to learn more about the writing and critiquing skills. Mr. Mark Dressel, a writing consultant from Grand Rapids, Michigan, will work directly with the faculty and students.

This year’s final Parent/Student/Teacher conferences will take place Monday evening, March 28, 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm and Tuesday, March 29, 2:30 to 5:30 pm. If you have not yet called the office for an appointment, please do so very soon. This is an excellent opportunity for all to further engage in the educational development of our sons and daughters.

Orientation for those desiring to run for a Student Association office takes place on Monday, March 21, at 3:20 in the academy chapel. Current SA officers will share with those having an interest the type of work that is done in their positions.

Following this week of campaigning, there will be a speech screening for all who are running for an office. The presidential candidates must be either a junior or senior and have a minimum 2.00 GPA with strong citizenship standing. They have a maximum of 5 minutes to present their platforms and tell what they hope to accomplish if elected. The candidates running for other offices have a 3-minute limit on their speeches. This screening takes place in the chapel on Monday, the 28th of March at 12:30 pm.

The speeches are given during assembly on Tuesday. Once the candidates have concluded their remarks, the voting machine is set up and all members of the Student Association are encouraged to vote. Faculty, staff and students are all members of the Student Association by the constitution. In the event of a needed runoff, that will take place the following day. Only one faculty member and one student will know the results of the winners until they are publically announced. Winners of the election will become the officers for the new school year and they will begin forming their agendas and programs for the new school year.